

EDITORIALS

Sabaugh stays connected

The issue: Information at the Register of Deeds now will be available on line.

Our view: We applaud the county clerk for taking her office into the 21st century.

Macomb County Clerk Carmella Sabaugh has taken her office's technology to another level of service. For the public, it will mean 24-hour access "to view or print their real estate documents from any company" that's connected to the Internet.

In announcing the good news technology advancement, Sabaugh said she was proud of her department's public service record, while adding: "People refinancing a mortgage or buying a home can now get instant access to their deeds and mortgage documents."

Sabaugh, who also serves as the county's register of deeds, said the cost for searching for and printing a deed through the Internet "will be the same as the cost for obtaining a copy in the Register of Deeds office."

As for positive reaction to the new service, Alan Polack, vice president of the Macomb County Probate Bar Association, said "as an attorney with a Macomb County estate planning practice, I can see Carmella Sabaugh's new service will bene-



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fit the people of our county." In expressing an equal receptive response of the new service, Kim Schmidt, president of First State Bank Mortgage Co., said the clerk's "new service comes at a time we are processing a high volume of mortgage refinancing due to low interest rate," while stressing that "this new technology will be a plus to us."

The county clerk-register of deeds reminds us that "real estate information is public information," and the deeds office keeps property records dating back to 1818.

Computer users can access the new service on line at www.landaccess.com and follow the prompts register. Payment for the service can be made via credit card, but those who fall in the category of being high volume users can purchase an annu-

al subscription and use an escrow account.

This latest advancement implemented by Sabaugh is the latest line of successes she's recorded as county clerk-register of deeds.

Among some of the firsts Sabaugh has recorded, we need to point out that she was the first county clerk in Michigan to use computerized scanning and indexing for a register of deeds office. She was also the first to accept credit card payments for court filings and vital records, and she was the first to provide an overnight delivery service for birth certificate requests and other vital records.

We salute Macomb's county clerk-register of deeds for running her offices in a 21st century operational mode, and for making sure the taxpayers are serviced with a first-class effort.

Especially so for the department's latest advancement, a high technology system that allows access to public property and a public system that puts deeds on the Internet.

Well done, Carmella Sabaugh.